



Kick off spring at our Spring Garden Workshop! Saturday March 14th @ 10AM

Spring has arrived! Bees are buzzing, plants are blooming, and business is booming! Come in and take a look at all the new stuff we have received. Tomatoes, peppers, and a beautiful selection of herbs as well! Get a head start on your spring garden!



Mature citrus with loads of blooms are just patiently waiting to be planted in your yard!

An old Chinese proverb said it best “ The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, the second best time is now.”
Let’s enjoy the gorgeous spring

in store for us!
Don’t forget we do offer delivery and planting services! Sit back and let us do the work for you and help add new beauty into your yard!

Join us Saturday March 14th at 10am for a Spring Gardening Workshop led by Kathleen Opeka. In this workshop you will learn all about soil health, watering, fertilizing and selecting

the correct plants for our area! No sign ups necessary for the FREE EVENT!

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Rillito Nursery & Garden Center
6303 N La Cholla. Tucson AZ . 520-575-0995
Hours Mon-Sat 8am-4pm ~ Sun 10am-4pm



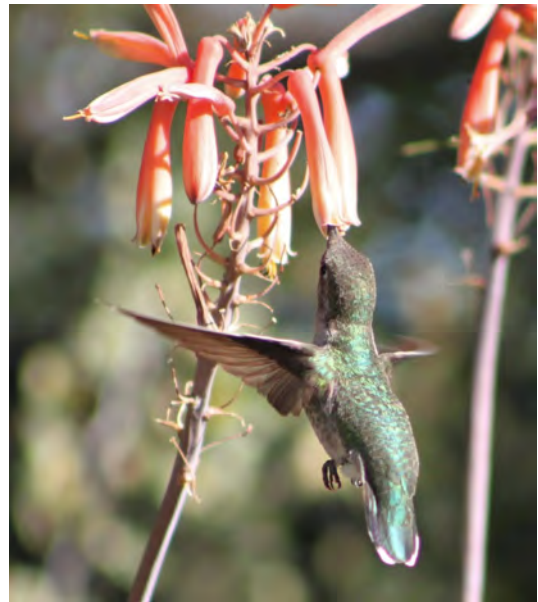
March Garden Checklist

Trees/Shrubs: You can start to trim out the frost damage from your plants, be careful not to trim too much out or you may be losing some of the new growth for spring. Stone fruits can now be fertilized with a fertilizer that has micro-nutrients in it, we carry Ferti-lome Fruit, Citrus and Pecan tree food. Now is one of the best times to plant trees and shrubs, it is best to get them in the ground and allow time for the roots to become established before the heat of the summer.

Flowers: You can start using fertilizer in your garden beds to help prepare them for the Spring garden crops. A fertilizer with a high nitrogen and phosphorous will be the best to use. Winter annuals will still be going for a couple more months before we get really hot. Keep them looking nice by picking off any spent blooms, and fertilizing with a well balanced fertilizer.

Vegetables: Typically the best date to change out your garden soil and start your seeds for the spring/ summer garden is March 15, that's when we will be doing our gardens here at the nursery. Our garden will be getting doctored up with some really good organic material. I will start with two bags of Happy Frog Potting Soil, then 4 bags of Happy Frog Soil Conditioner, then sprinkle a little bit of chicken manure. The best gardens I've had in years has been with using good organic material.

You can start the following seeds now: beans, corn, cucumbers, melons, okra, green onions, pumpkins, squash, and sunflowers. We do have the starts for: artichokes, eggplant, peppers, and tomatoes. Old herbs can be trimmed back and fertilized to encourage new growth. Herb transplants we have at the moment are: Parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, basil and chives.



When visiting our nursery, check in on your smart phone or write a recommendation, show an associate and receive 5% off your plant purchase!

One use only. Some restrictions may apply.



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You can smell it from here!

Texas Mountain Laurel **Sophora Secundiflora**

About this time of year you may be seeing a nice tree or shrub producing large clusters of very fragrant purple flowers (smell like grape Kool-Aid). Well, it is called the Texas Mountain Laurel or Sophora Secundiflora.

This slow growing evergreen may be grown as a medium to large shrub. The pinnate leaves with their lustrous leathery upper surface provide year long beauty enhanced in mid spring by the dense clusters of flowers of lavender or violet.

The seed pods contain a red orange seed that is sometimes used in jewelry. Both seeds and flowers are poisonous, and can contain narcotic properties.

Nothing seems to bother the hardy, drought-tolerant, grow-in-a-stone Mountain Laurel, hard freezes (below 20 degrees F) except for caterpillars in the spring and fall. They are a plant anyone can grow!



Feathery Cassia **Senna Artemisioides**

Also blooming around town and in the medians, are the feathery cassia. This lovely fragrant shrub makes a wonderful desert shrub.

The lacy foliage of the Feathery Cassia is made up of narrow, gray-green needle like leaflets. The foliage has a silvery sheen when it's blown by the wind, which adds beauty to the landscape even when the plant is not in flower.

Flowers are borne in clusters that cover this shrub in masses of golden-yellow color in winter and spring. The pea like flowers aren't just beautiful; they're very fragrant as well. They share the fragrance of the jasmine.

Cassia's are hardy down to 20 degrees F. Drought tolerant once established, and being able to take full Arizona full sun makes this showy shrub a favorite in desert landscapes.

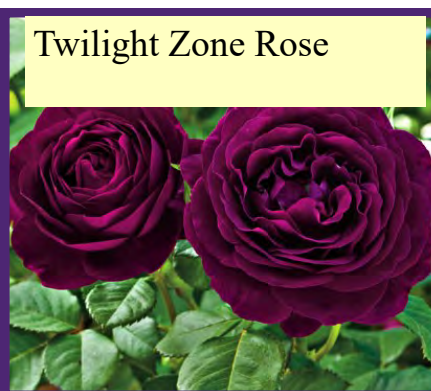


Color of the month: Purple

Artichoke flower



Twilight Zone Rose



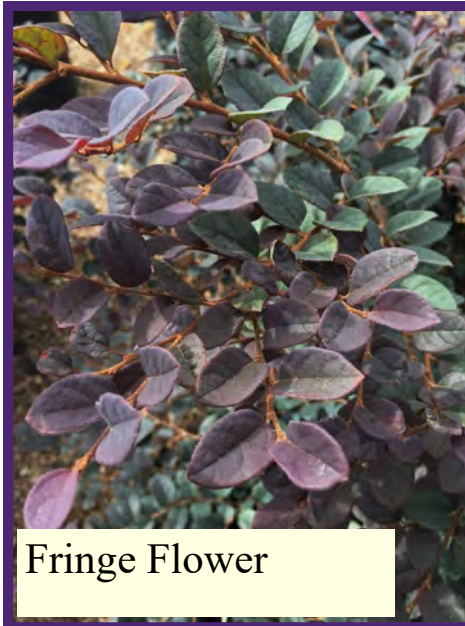
Bearded Iris



Ruellia



Fringe Flower



Desert Willow



Lavender



Purple Heart



Texas Mountain Laurel



Plant Profile: Ruellia

Size: 4'x4'

Blooms: Purple

Exposure: Morning sun afternoon shade

Minimum Temperature: 25-30 degrees F

Water: Moderate-high

Pruning: Dead growth in spring after frost

Growth: Moderate-fast

Fertilizer: 5-5-5 All purpose organic
Eden Valley Paradise



Plant Profile: Bearded Iris

Size: 2'x2'

Blooms: Variety of colors!

Exposure: Morning sun afternoon shade

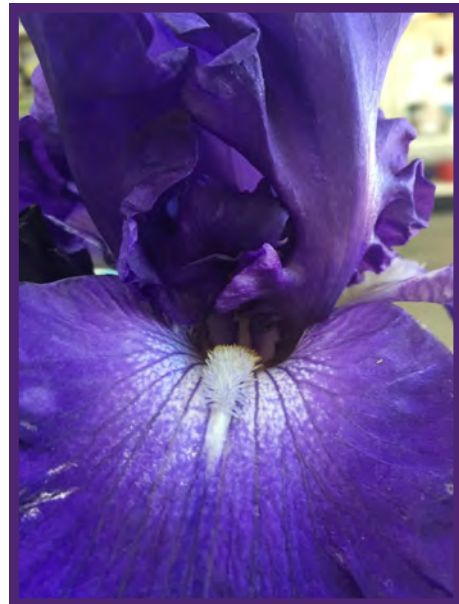
Minimum Temperature: 25-30 degrees F

Water: High

Pruning: To shape when dormant

Growth: Moderate

Fertilizer: 5-8-5 Rose and Flower Food.





Staff Picks: Black Raven ZZ plant

Picked by: Kate L

The Black Raven ZZ plant is a specialty variety of the ZZ plant best known for its striking dark purple, almost black foliage. ZZ plants are some of the best low maintenance houseplants, they thrive on low, medium and high light, and want little water.

Follow these simple steps to insure a happy long-lived houseplant!

Watering: ZZ plants prefer to dry out completely between each watering. ZZ plants have a bulbous root system and store a lot of water, over-watering can lead to rot. Sometimes depending on how warm or cool you keep the house they can go 4-6 weeks between watering.

Soil: ZZ plants will prefer a well draining rich potting soil. I have had great success with the Happy Frog Potting Soil.

Light: ZZ plants are high adaptable and can tolerate low light but will do best in bright indirect light. If they are in a lower light environment they will just grow a little slower and require less water. Avoid direct sunlight outside as that can burn their leaves.



Temperature: ZZ plants can handle normal indoor temperatures but do not like extreme cold. If you plan to have it on a fully shaded patio, bring it inside on cold nights!

Fertilizer: Feed with a water soluble all purpose fertilizer. I like the Maxsea All Purpose (16-16-16). Mix 1 tablespoon per gallon of water and fertilize once every 2-3months.

Rillito Nursery & Garden Center has been serving Tucson since 1994. We are a family owned and operated business striving to provide the ultimate nursery experience and customer service. We supply the healthiest plants and highest quality garden necessities. Spread out over three acres, we supply a wide arrangement of annuals, shade plants, desert plants, roses, citrus, trees and shrubs.

Recipe from the garden: Creamy Avocado Ranch Chicken Pasta Salad

This recipe comes from halfbakedharvest.com

Ingredients:

Dressing:

- 1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt or sour cream
- 1/3 cup mayo
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley
- 1 tablespoon dried chives
- 2 teaspoons dried dill
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 2 teaspoons onion powder
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons buttermilk

Salad:

- 1 pound short cut pasta or rotini
- 1/2 cup salsa verde
- 2 cups cooked shredded chicken
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup cubed spicy cheddar cheese (optional)
- 1 head romaine lettuce, shredded
- 2 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/2 cup fresh chopped cilantro
- 8 slice cooked bacon, crumbled
- 1 avocado, diced

Directions:

1. To make the dressing. Combine all ingredients in a glass jar or bowl and whisk until smooth. Season with salt and pepper. Thin as desired with buttermilk.
2. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Boil the pasta to al dente, according to package directions. Drain.
3. In a large bowl, toss together the hot pasta, salsa verde, and chicken. Pour the dressing over mixture and toss to combine. Add cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, cilantro and bacon. Top with avocado. Serve warm or cold.

